GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2916
ANSWERED ON:02.08.2002
PRICES OF INDIAN RICE IN INTERNATIONAL MARKET
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Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the rank of India in the field of rice export in the World;

(b) the steps being taken by the Government to improve its position;

(c) whether 25 per cent of Indian rice is being traded in the international market at far cheaper rates than the Thailand rice;

(d) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(e) whether another 25% of Indian rice is being traded at half of the last year`s price in contrast to sharp increase in the export prices of rice from other countries ; and

(f) if so, the details and reasons therefor?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY)

(a): During the year 2001-02 India exported 1.53 million MT of non-basmati rice and 0.66 million MT of basmati rice.Thus it ranked fourth in the World exports after Thailand (6.5 million MT), Vietnam (3.5 million MT) and USA (2.6 million MT).

(Source: Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority, New Delhi)

(b) : Some of the steps taken to boost the export of rice include publicity campaign, sending delegations abroad, participating in International trade fairs, inviting potential buyers and providing financial assistance to exporters for improving quality, packaging, brand promotion of products, conducting market surveys and reimbursing certain WTO admissible cost on account of marketing and transport.

(c) to (f) : It is not possible to indicate accurately the comparative rates at which Indian and other countries rice is being traded in the international market, the same being a function of various factors including international demand and supply position, domestic demand and supply position, domestic prices, consumer preference and varieties traded.